CITY OF HARTFORD PRESS RELEASE

Contact: CMSanchez@ci.hartford.ct.us or Rrojano@ci.hartford.ct.us

From: Beverley Dawes, 757-9406

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 20, 2004

The City of Hartford Department of Health & Human Services Has Trained Employable Hartford Seniors 55 and Older Seeking Employment Opportunities.

(Hartford) The Senior AIDES Program provides useful "learn while you earn" part-time community service assignments for persons 55 years of age while "promoting the transition to enter the labor market". The Department of Health & Human Services staff administers the program and Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI), provides the funding under Title V of the Older American Act. This funding covers seniors' wages while they are in training at local community agencies learning new skills which enhances their opportunity to re-enter the job market.

Hartford residents who are over 55 years of age, with low incomes, are trained or retrained for today's workforce. Participants enrolled also receive 20 hours of paid work experience per week for services they provide. Training is a critical component of the program with the goal of building the skills and confidence that will lead to "unsubsidized" employment. In exchange for the services of enrollees, community agencies provide a supportive environment, supervision, and the use of new technology.

If you are a Business/Organization in the Greater Hartford area interested in hiring Hartford residents 55 or older who are currently enrolled in the City's Senior AIDES Employment Program, please call either Rosa Velazquez (860) 522-4888 ext. 7563 or Kejuan L. Dillard at (860) 522-4888 ext. 7466.